

# FATALITY



AFZF-SAFE

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
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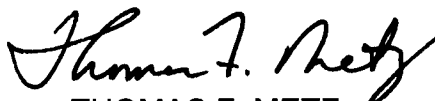
01 NOV 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Traffic Fatality -- Fatality Memo 06-02

1. On the evening of 17 October, the Phantom Corps experienced its second privately owned vehicle (POV) fatality of Fiscal Year 2006. The Soldier was operating his pickup truck on a local state highway. His vehicle traveled across the center line into the oncoming traffic lane. The pickup truck collided with a semi-truck killing the Soldier on impact. While this accident is still under investigation, initial assessments indicate fatigue as a contributing factor.
2. During this summer, the Corps experienced a 125 day POV accident-free period which ended on 29 August. Since then, six Corps Soldiers perished in needless POV accidents. The accident scenarios continue to read the same: excessive speed, fatigue, alcohol, and aggressive driving. Failure to use personal safety equipment has also contributed to the severity of the injuries.
3. I encourage commanders and leaders to be actively engaged in POV accident prevention. Evaluate unit accident avoidance programs. Use your installation and unit safety professionals, they are great resources. Ensure all Soldiers attend vehicle accident avoidance training. Most units and installations offer classroom instruction, otherwise, there is a recently released Army Knowledge Online course available as well. Soldiers can register through the Army's Learning Management System for the Army Traffic Safety Program, Accident Avoidance Course for Army Motor Vehicle Drivers (<https://www.us.army.mil>).
4. As warfighters, our focus is on the Global War on Terrorism, but we are also challenged with home station accident prevention. Commanders must be innovative, committed, and out front so they can make a difference in protecting our Soldiers. The standards are clearly defined and our leaders as well as our Soldiers are well trained. Both leaders and Soldiers must continue to mentor each other, ensuring the right decision is made and needless accidents are avoided.

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THOMAS F. METZ  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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